

The pension agency in Toledo is the largest in the country. It pays out annually fifteen million dollars to the veterans of Kansas, Missouri and Colorado.

CHAIRMAN HANNEY's statement that the duties of the office of secretary of state are so light that he can easily attend to them in one day of each week, is opening the eyes of Pennsylvanians as to the amount of work they are paying \$13,000 a year for.

DURING the opposition of Mars, a few evenings ago, that planet was only 35,000,000 miles from the earth. Viewed through the mammoth Lick telescope, at Mt. Hamilton, Cal., it seemed only 50,000 miles away. It resembles our earth more than any other celestial body.

The Hamburg authorities are earning a reputation by cosmopolitan philanthropy, as it were. In guarding against the introduction of any contagious disease by people who come to that port from the interior to emigrate, the cautious officers of the health department confine the emigrants on the quays near the ships "till they embark for America."

ADVISES from St. Paul report that from 200 to 400 farm laborers are needed in each county in South Dakota, east of the Missouri river—about 10,000 laborers in all. Southern Minnesota and North Dakota also ask for laborers on their farms. It is estimated that 40,000 of them will be needed to harvest the immense grain crop of the northwest within the next month.

It is said that the Austro-Hungarian government will adopt pure nickel for its currency. The alloy coin generally used, containing only 25 per cent. of nickel combined with 75 per cent. of copper, possesses, it is considered, numerous disadvantages, while the favorable points of the pure nickel piece are that it can easily be coined, has great durability, is preserved clean in circulation and does not oxidize.

WATKIN JAMES, the aged stepfather of explorer Henry M. Stanley, is one of the strikers at Homestead. Mr. James is a Welshman and married Stanley's mother some years after the African hero was born. He is a gray-haired man of about seventy years of age and speaks English with a strong Cambrian accent. Stanley's mother, who was Mr. James' first wife, died many years ago, and the old mill-worker has since twice married.

Now that a large portion of population of the country is traveling about and sleeping in strange beds, a Connecticut scientist adds to the interest of the season by the announcement that the insect known to the learned as the cimex lectularius and to the "plain people" as bedbug, is a disseminator of the disease, and if he has fed off a tuberculous sufferer one night is as likely as not to infect the next sleeper with that plague.

The best display of American animals which will be made at the World's fair will come from the Kansas State university. There will be 400 specimens in the group, which will occupy a room 58x86 feet. The entire floor space is to be so arranged as to represent a natural landscape. There will be rocks and grass, and trees, and cliffs, and valleys, and a running stream, and other picturesque features of the natural haunts of western animals.

A FEW years ago Astronomer Schiaparelli, of Milan, thought he discovered double canals of incredible extent on the planet Mars, whereupon Astronomer Flammarion, of Paris, proceeded to construct some wonderful theories as to the constitution of our celestial neighbor and the extraordinary engineering resources of its inhabitants. Now the great Lick telescope shows that there are no canals nor anything resembling them on Mars.

THE bill authorizing a survey for a ship canal connecting the Delaware river with New York bay has passed the senate and been favorably reported in the house by the river and harbor committee. The improvement is urged by the board of trade and transportation in New York, the trade leagues of Philadelphia and other representative commercial bodies. Great advantages are claimed for it in the way of increasing transit facilities and reducing freight charges between New York and Philadelphia.

SOME \$35,000 have been expended in the production of a gigantic saw for the armor plate department of the Homestead mill. It weighs 110 tons, and will cut a nickel steel armor plate as an ordinary saw does a plank—armor plates ranging in weight from eight to thirty-eight tons, and sometimes twenty-nine feet long and twenty inches thick. The saw has a blade seven and one-half feet in diameter, geared from above and revolving horizontally, and with it an angular slab of cold nickel steel, weighing about a dozen tons, is taken off like the slab of a pine log.

MME. PATTI has at last decided on her final absolute farewell tour in America. She has signed a contract with Mr. Marcus Mayer for a tour of forty operatic concerts. As an earnest of Mme. Patti's intentions to make this her irrevocably last tour she has inserted the following clause in the contract: "Marcus R. Mayer shall have the right to announce this tour as a positive farewell of Mme. Patti-Nicolini in North America, and she binds herself to write him a letter on this subject, which letter he may publish." She will also do a new one-act opera and the second act of "L'Amico Fritz."

CURRENT TOPICS.

THREE times as many herrings are consumed as any other fish.

THE national debt was increased \$357,000 during the month of July.

GREAT BRITAIN grants annually \$35,000,000 for pensions and annuities.

A WOMAN of Yuma, Ariz., is said to be the mother of twenty-five children.

A RESIDENT of Walworth, Wash., captured a red bat a short time ago.

ALICE MITCHELL is now an inmate of the insane asylum at Batavia, Tenn.

THE new British coinage will bear the queen's head without the crown.

A WISCONSIN man is about to establish a pearl fishery at Neodesha, Kan.

JUSTICE LAMAR's long locks have been clipped close and are now quite gray.

THE Boston newsboys will not be allowed to sell papers on the street cars in future.

MAYOR SLAYMAKER, of Lancaster, Pa., has Madeira wine in his cellar of the vintage of 1793.

CHICAGO claims to have the only band in the United States composed entirely of letter carriers.

THE youthful emperor of Annam is only twelve years old, and an inveterate cigarette smoker.

—Eighty millions of dollars is the annual amount paid to school teachers in the United States.

AFTER gathering in their crops in Utah 500 Mormon families will move to Mexico in the autumn.

EVERY southern state except Kentucky has passed pension laws for its ex-confederate soldiers.

A MAN living near Troy, Kan., will realize \$2,500 from twenty acres of blackberries this season.

ST. LOUIS is organizing what is claimed to be the first Italian regiment ever formed in this country.

COL. RICE, ex-auditor of the state of Indiana, is advocating the construction of India rubber men-of-war.

CHAUNCEY G. SMITH, of Hartford, Ct., has been fifty years a deacon of the First Baptist church in that city.

THE cemeteries of London cover two thousand acres, and the land they occupy represents a capital of \$1,000,000.

A TYPEWRITING machine which can print on the leaves of a blank book of any thickness is the latest invention.

EX-SPEAKER REED has received his ninth nomination for the house by the republicans of the First Maine district.

BIG RAPIDS, Mich., has a co-operative society of 130 people, the object of which is to keep one another in employment.

It has been discovered that the cholera plague was started by the pollution of the water supply of Meshed, on the Volga.

THE private in the German army is paid \$8 per month, out of which there is daily deducted five cents for mess expenses.

BENJAMIN L. COHEN, the latest addition to the ranks of Jewish legislators in Great Britain, is a wealthy London banker.

OF the 11,000,000 women in Italy nearly 2,000,000 are employed in industrial labor, and over 3,000,000 in agriculture.

JOHN J. INGALLS is said to be so superstitious that he feels nervous when he sees the moon over the wrong shoulder.

THE new Germany army tent is divisible into two portions, each of which can be converted into an overcoat in case of rain.

A PENNSYLVANIA inventor has devised a pair of eyeglasses with a mirror mounted so as to reflect objects in the rear of the wearer.

COL. ROBERT H. CROCKETT, democratic candidate for congress in the Sixth Arkansas district, is a grandson of the famous Davy Crockett.

A LOCK of hair and a bit of garment ascribed to the Apostle James are exhibited by St. James' Roman Catholic church, of San Francisco.

THE oldest living ex-senator of the United States is James W. Bradbury, who recently celebrated his ninetyeth birthday at Augusta, Me.

TEN pairs of twins have been born to the wife of Abram Astrom, of Tomkins N. Y. She is his third wife and he married her fourteen years ago.

THE oldest and largest medical school in America is that of the University of Pennsylvania. It was founded in 1776 and has graduated 10,458 men.

IN using what is known as the Canadian method of boring oil wells, a well 1,000 feet was bored in 238 hours or at an average of 4.75 feet per hour of actual work.

COUNT CRISPI, ex-premier of Italy, according to foreign papers, is in danger of losing his sight. His right eye is said to be almost useless, owing to a cataract.

AN old soldier at Wichita, Kas., recently received from the government three cents which had been due him without his knowledge for more than thirty years.

THE biggest gun in the world is the Krupp cannon, eighty-seven feet long that shoots a distance of fifteen miles. It will probably be exhibited at the World's fair.

IN size Mars is the smallest of the primary planets except Mercury, its diameter being a little more than 4,000 miles. Its density is about three-fourths that of the earth.

SAMUEL SLOAN, the millionaire railroad president, has a dislike for typewriters, human and mechanical, and writes all his letters in autograph with a large gold pen.

IN order to increase the size of the city, the Berlin authorities intend to incorporate the suburbs within a radius of ten miles, thus raising the population of the capital to over 3,000,000.

THERE is a fine old elm tree near Wellesley, Mass., in a fork of which, about twenty-five feet from the ground, a large currant bush is growing, which has been covered with ripe currants this season.

A LITTLE baby crawled into the arms of its dead mother, Mrs. W. H. Ferguson, of Gobleville, Mich. The child was fast asleep when the father came home and found the mother lying a corpse in the woodshed.

The News Condensed.

Important Intelligence From All Parts.

CONGRESSIONAL.

IN the senate on the 3d a resolution was introduced and referred to have all the courts martial of the last ten years reported to the senate. Six house pension bills and bills to correct military records were passed. The vice president announced the appointment of Messrs. Gallagher, Peffer, Hansbrough, Felton, Sanders, White and Hill as the select committee on the Pinkerton detective force. In the house nothing was done except filibustering and making motions to kill time.

ON the 4th a joint resolution extending until August 10 the appropriations for the services of the government in the various bureaus covered by the sundry civil appropriation bill was passed in the senate. In the house it was voted to extend the civil appropriations until August 10, to reconsider the \$5,000,000 world's fair appropriation and send the sundry civil bill to the senate for conference. The bill making an appropriation of \$2,500,000 for the world's fair was considered in committee of the whole.

IN the senate on the 5th the bill appropriating \$2,500,000 for the world's fair was passed, and at 11 p. m. the senate adjourned sine die. In the house the bill giving the world's fair \$2,500,000 was passed by a vote of 181 to 83, and just before 11 p. m. final adjournment was taken.

DOMESTIC.

TWO PEOPLE were killed and five seriously injured by the breaking of a culvert at St. Paul, Minn.

MISS CORA WOODARD and Miss Anna Bushing, two popular young ladies, were killed by a runaway horse at Rockford, Ill.

FOUR highwaymen held up the 'Frisco express, south bound, on the Southern Pacific, near Colis, Cal., and robbed the express car of a sum estimated at from \$10,000 to \$40,000.

AN earthquake shock at Burlington and other Wisconsin towns was so severe that houses were toppled over, people were made "seasick" and bells were tolled in the church steeples.

THREE young ladies, Nellie Zollinger, Blanche Simonsin and Grace Maxwell, were drowned at Port Byron, Ill., while wading in the river. The last named lost her life by trying to save the other two.

JULIUS CLEMENS shot and killed Mrs. Philipina Morgensthrallen at St. Joseph, Mo., and then blew his own brains out. Trouble over an arrest was the cause.

ALLEN CARTER (colored), who was arrested on a charge of assaulting his 14-year-old daughter, was taken from jail at Wynne, Ark., by a mob and lynched.

THE National oil mills and machinery were burned at Paris, Tex., the loss being \$250,000.

THE great trotting stallion Sultan, valued at \$40,000, dropped dead at Cynthiana, Ky., after being driven a mile.

MRS. WILLIAM HOFFER attempted to quicken a slow fire with kerosene at Creston, Ia., and she and her little daughter were killed by the explosion that followed.

ANDREW J. BORDEN, a wealthy and aged man, and his wife, were murdered in their home at Fall River, Mass., by some unknown person.

AT the annual meeting in Indianapolis of the Catholic Total Abstinence society a resolution favoring Sunday opening for the world's fair was defeated.

AT the races in Buffalo, N. Y., Robert J. Ewen paced a mile in 2:11, creating a new 4-year-old pace record.

IN the United States the business failures during the seven days ended on the 5th numbered 184, against 193 the preceding week and 231 for the corresponding week last year.

PRESIDENT HARRISON has signed the world's fair appropriation bill.

AT the leading clearing houses in the United States the exchanges during the week ended on the 5th aggregated \$1,075,742,080, against \$991,715,149 the previous week. The increase as compared with the corresponding week of 1891 was 8.0.

A FAST train on the Lake Shore road collided with a freight near Erie, Pa., and four persons were killed and several others were injured.

REV. T. E. CLARK, D. D., founder and president of the Society of Christian Endeavor, started from New York with his wife for a trip around the world.

H. C. FRICK, of Pittsburgh, Pa., chairman of the Carnegie Steel Company, has recovered from the wounds made by Alexander Bergmann.

REPORTS from the cotton belt show that the acreage has been greatly reduced, owing largely to last spring's floods, as well as an effort of planters to diversify their crops.

THREE boys named Dean Conrad, James McGillen and Eddie Litzanberger accidentally exploded a can of dynamite belonging to a contractor at Johnstown, Pa., and all were fatally injured.

FOUR masked men entered a bank at Benton, Mo., and made the cashier hand over \$1,200. They then took to their horses and escaped.

FREDERICK KAYSER, an aged, eccentric and wealthy miser, hanged himself at Dayton, O., as the result of a quarrel with his daughter.

AT Stillwater, Minn., the lumber mill of the Schulenberg & Roedel Company was destroyed by fire, the loss being \$125,000.

NELS WHITE's livery stable at Bismarck, N. D., was burned, and twenty horses were cremated.

IN the second series of the National league the percentages of the baseball clubs for the week ended on the 6th were: Cleveland, .737; Boston, .684; New York, .611; Brooklyn, .600; Philadelphia, .526; Baltimore, .520; Cincinnati, .474; Chicago, .421; Washington, .400; Pittsburgh, .389; Louisville, .316; St. Louis, .316.

MARTIN REED, under sentence of death for the murder of Alexander Chappel, escaped from jail at Noblesville, Pa., and when Officers Orr and Coyne attempted to capture him he shot them fatally and then shot himself dead.

JACOB CLAUSS, 83 years old, was granted a divorce in Detroit, Mich., from his wife, who is 76 years old.

CONSERVATIVE estimates place the loss to stock, crops and farm property in Hancock county, Ill., from the spring floods at \$343,000.

AT the national convention of Carpenters and Joiners of America in St. Louis Henry H. Treneo, of New York, was elected president.

FOUR members of a family named McIntyre, together with their cook, living near Buena Vista, Ky., were poisoned by eating cabbage which had in some unknown manner been cooked with a poisonous snake, and all died in a few hours.

FIRE destroyed the Joplin (Mo.) white lead works. Loss, \$200,000.

CINCINNATI tobacco warehousemen have effected a combination under a single management, six great houses signing the agreement. Their capital stock is \$2,500,000.

GEORGE L. GOWDY was instantly killed and his wife and infant daughter probably fatally injured by a stroke of lightning at Shelbyville, Ill.

EIGHT business buildings, including the postoffice and the Alliance Times office, were destroyed by fire at Alliance, Neb.

AT Louisville, Ky., Tom Johnson was killed and Harry Parish and James Walker fatally injured by a fall from a scaffold. They were painters.

THE annual report of Commissioner Carter, of the general land office, for the last fiscal year shows that 114,390 persons obtained free homes during the year. In the public land states and territories there are 579,664,583 acres of vacant lands.

IS a quarrel over a woman at Fluvanna, N. Y., Patsy Dowd murdered George Hess and then killed herself.

THE visible supply of grain in the United States on the 8th was: Wheat, 26,081,000 bushels; corn, 6,887,000 bushels; oats, 5,051,000 bushels; rye, 332,000 bushels; barley, 377,000 bushels.

NEARLY all the striking laborers at Duquesne, Pa., returned to work, agreeing to all the terms of the Carnegie company.

A TORNADO extended from South Dakota across Minnesota into Wisconsin, wrecking many houses and destroying crops. The losses were estimated at over \$1,000,000. Two lives were lost at Marshall, Minn.

IT was learned that the loss of the package containing \$60,000 by the Adams Express Company several weeks ago occurred in the New York office. While the packages were spread on the floor some person picked up one of them and escaped.

TWO freight engines collided on the Baltimore & Ohio road at Bellaire, O., and Thomas Feeney, fireman, and John Lovejoy, brakeman, were fatally hurt.

NINE of the largest boot and shoe manufacturers in the country recently organized into a trust have decided that the combination shall go into effect November 1.

A WHOLE family, consisting of a man, wife and four children, names unknown, were killed near Guthrie, O. T., by their team running away and going over a precipice.

RICHARD DOWNEY, Hiram Brotherton, Emel Goos and Bert Altman were drowned at Council Bluffs, Ia., while bathing.

TARRANT & Co., importers of drugs at New York, lost \$100,000 by a fire in their storerooms.

A FIRE which started in the furniture factory of Chatterton & Co. in Baltimore, Md., damaged property to the extent of \$200,000.

GEN. SCHOFIELD has ordered that all hospital matrons in excess of 100, now employed, be discharged. This is made necessary by the provisions of the army appropriation bill.

CHILI has signified her intention to send commissioners to Washington for the purpose of arbitrating claims by Americans against that country.

HENRY RICHIE and Fred Floto, aged 21 and 19 years, respectively, were drowned in the lake at Michigan City, Ind.

THE eleventh reunion of the national encampment Sons of Veterans convened at Helena, Mont.

JOSEPHINE DELVEAUX was killed by lightning at Green Bay, Wis., and the same stroke made her brother deaf.

PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

THE state executive committee of the farmers' alliance met in St. Paul, Minn., and decided to withdraw its state electoral ticket from the political contest.

COL. JOHN A. RICE, vice president of the national board of trade, died at Scranton, Pa.

THE following congressional nominations were made: Illinois, Twelfth district, T. A. Rogers (rep.); Missouri, Fourteenth district, M. Arnold (dem.); Georgia, First district, R. E. Lester (rep.); North Carolina, Fourth district, B. H. Dunn (rep.); Virginia, First district, W. A. Jones (dem.); Nebraska, Third district, O. M. Kem (alliance) renominated.

THE Connecticut prohibitionists will hold their state convention at Hartford August 30.

WILLIAM REESE, the oldest iron worker in the United States and one of the best known manufacturers at Pittsburgh, died at his home at Bolivar, Pa., aged 104 years.

GEN. VICTOR F. QUAIN has been nominated for congress by the democrats of the Fourth Nebraska district.

THE people's party of Nebraska in convention at Kearney nominated ex-United States Senator C. H. Van Wyck for governor.

JOSHUA WALCOTT, aged 67 years, died at Tucson, A. T. He was engineer of the first passenger train on the New York Central, also the first engineer on the Panama railroad.

THE republicans of Nebraska in convention at Lincoln nominated Lorenzo Crounse for governor. Mr. Crounse is assistant secretary of the United States treasury department. Rev. J. G. Tate was chosen for lieutenant governor.

THE Michigan legislature met in extra session to pass a reapportionment bill.

NOMINATIONS for congress were made as follows: Missouri, Fifth district, A. J. Powell (pro.); Florida, Second district, C. M. Cooper (dem.); Michigan, Eighth district, W. S. Linton (rep.); Mississippi, Second district, J. C. Kyle (dem.) renominated.

THE official count of the Alabama election gives Jones (dem.) for governor about 10,000 majority. Kolb (alliance) still claims that an honest count will make him the next governor.

THE democrats in the First Illinois district nominated Robert I. Hunt for congress, and in the Fourth district Julius Goldizer was nominated.

COL. J. W. GORE, one of central Kansas' first settlers, dropped dead on the street at Abilene from the effect of the heat.

REV. BENJAMIN FISK BARNETT, the most noted Swedenborgian in the United States, died at Germantown, Pa., aged 84 years.

THE Michigan legislature in special session at Lansing passed a new appropriation bill and adjourned.

WILLIAM WHITE, grand secretary of the odd fellows of the United States, died of heart disease at Louisville, Ky., aged 75 years.

JOSEPH J. DAVIS died of paralysis at his home in Louisville, N. J., aged 70 years. He served for many years in congress.

ARCHIBALD THACKER died at his home near Martinsville, Ind., aged 101 years.

FOREIGN.

DIRECTORS of the Panama canal are said to have signed a contract with a syndicate for the completion of the great inter-oceanic ditch.

U. BASSETTI, manager of the "Loteria Beneficencia Publica" of the City of Mexico, reports that institution is in a "busted" condition, and the Americans who invested are minus \$500,000.

THE new British parliament assembled and Rt. Hon. Arthur Wellesley Peel, speaker of the last parliament, was elected speaker.

RAMSDEN & Co., spinners and manufacturers at Horton, Eng., have failed, with liabilities of £200,000.

THE Russian famine was officially regarded as over, but there was still much distress and ample use for any contributions of the charitable.

THE town of Rzece, in Russia, was set on fire in four corners and completely destroyed, fourteen persons being killed, sixteen seriously injured and 2,000 rendered homeless.

SIX miners lost their lives in a coal-pit near Dewsbury, England.

EIGHTEEN Indians were drowned on River's inlet near Victoria, B. C., by the wrecking of their canoes while out hunting.

IT was reported that a party of twenty tourists that left Vandenberg, Australia, to hunt kangaroos, were captured by the natives, who are cannibals, and killed and eaten.

A FERRYBOAT plying on the Mejerda river was capsized in midstream at Tunis, Switzerland, and nine of the persons on board were drowned.

LORD ALFRED TENNYSON, the poet, celebrated his 83d birthday at his home in London.

FIRE at Victoria, B. C., destroyed the Electric Tramway Company's powerhouse with its contents, the loss amounting to over \$200,000.

MEXICO has established depots from which food is supplied to the thousands of starving peasants in the famine-stricken districts.

A MORTAR charged with dynamite was exploded near St. Alfonso's church in Rome, Italy, during a religious fete, and eleven persons were killed and a number of others were injured.

THE queen's speech which was read in the British parliament was purely formal, and foreshadowed an early adjournment.

IT was said that in the governments of Saratoff and Samara, Russia, the deaths from cholera numbered 3,000 daily.

MRS. ROSE, one of the first women to speak in the United States in favor of the abolition of slavery, died in London, aged 83 years.

LATER.

FRANK VOGT, of Massillon, who fell from Hess, Snyder & Co's new building on June 20 and broke his spine, died on the 9th. He told his friends he would die on the 8th.

HON. JAMES C. NORMIE, judge of the criminal court at St. Louis, committed suicide in that city on the 9th. The cause of the rash act is believed to have been the attacks of a newspaper upon his judicial administration. He was 48 years of age.

THE prohibitionists of New Jersey on the 9th nominated Thomas J. Kennedy, of Hudson County, for governor.

GEN. JAMES W. DENVER died at Washington, D. C., on the 9th. He was 75 years old.

AT Nashville, Tenn., on the 9th, the democratic state convention nominated Chief Justice Peter Turney for governor.

A SEVERE electric storm passed over Paulding, O., on the 8th, doing considerable damage. Judge W. A. Snook's house was struck and the chimney demolished, and a building at H. C. Tom & Co's brick yard was badly damaged.

WHILE working on the rocks at the quarry of H. H. Swope, at Mapleton, Pa., on the 9th, a premature fall of rock occurred, burying Samuel Bell and several other workmen. Bell was instantly killed, but the others escaped.

A LANDSLIDE occurred on the Central railroad near Whitesburg, Ga., on the 8th. Section hands were in a cut at the time. Three negro laborers were killed and two